

III. REMARKS

It is noted that a preliminary amendment was filed on January 31, 2005, a true and correct copy of which is attached to this response. In that amendment, the Assignee canceled claims 10-13, 17-20, 25-26, 28-29, 32, 34-35, 37-38, renumbered claims 56-62 due to a typographical error, and added claims 63 and 64. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 14-16, 21-24, 27, 30-31, 33, 36, and 39-64 were left remaining in the application. The Examiner does not consider this preliminary amendment in the Office Action dated August 28, 2006.

The Assignee, after review of the Examiner's restriction requirement, hereby elects for further prosecution in the present application the invention of Group I, claims 1-9, 14-16, 21-24, 27, 30-31, 33, 36, 39 and 40, without traverse and withdraws claims 41-64 from further consideration.

In view of the examiner's restriction requirement and previously canceled claims, the applicant asserts the right to present claims 10-13, 17-20, 25-26, 28-29, 32, 34-35, 37-38, and 41-64 in a subsequent continuation application, if desired. Applicant notes that claim status indications of "withdrawn" in parentheses indicate that the referenced claim is being withdrawn without prejudice in response to a restriction requirement.

CONCLUSION

The applicant has elected Group I, drawn to claims 1-9, 14-16, 21-24, 27, 30-31, 33, 36, 39 and 40 for examination. The applicant respectfully requests examination of such claims and an allowance is requested at the examiner's earliest convenience. Should there be any outstanding questions remaining, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Dated this 28 day of November, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,
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